

Children's Sermon

The Messages of the Roses.

By Rev. Stuart Nye Hutchison.

They call the lion the king of beasts, and the rose the queen of the flowers.

There is a pretty German legend about how the rose got its sweetness. There was an angel who came to earth carrying in her hand a goblet filled with the nectar which the angels drink in heaven. As she was walking along she stumbled and part of the nectar was spilled on the ground, and there the roses came up. So the rose is the sweetness of heaven.

There is another lovely story about the rose bush. When the soldiers were about to crucify Jesus one of them thought that he would make a crown of thorns for his head. So he went out into the garden, and there he found a rose bush. He took some of the branches of the thorny bush, and with them he made a wreath, which they placed on the head of Jesus. When they put the sharp thorns on his head they pricked the skin and the blood began to flow and covered the thorns, and that is why the rose bush bears the sweetest and loveliest flowers that we know.

Once the rose was not so pretty as these that we see. It grew wild in the woods and was a poor little thing. And then some gardener took that wild rose and he pruned it, and trimmed it, and watered it, and cared for it, and from that poor little wild rose he produced the lovely flowers that we admire so much.

That is the way that God does with us. He takes us and trains us and cares for us, if we will let Him, till we are fine and beautiful in character like the rose.

Now let me tell you the message of the roses. What does the rose mean? First, it means love. Dante a great writer who lived in Italy long ago, spoke of heaven as a great Rose. He meant by that that heaven is filled from end to end with love. When we want to show our love to someone who is sick or in trouble we send them some flowers. Roses always

carry with them the message of love. It is said that when the apostle John was a very old man and could not walk, they used to put him in a chair and carry him about the city, and to everyone whom he met he would say, "Love one another." That is the message of the roses. "Love one another."

Then the message of the rose is the message of helpfulness. In California the roses bloom everywhere, in the yards and fields and by the roadsides, just everywhere. And wherever you go you can smell the roses. If you go in the house and shut the door, you can still scent the fragrance.

There are some lives like that that carry with them wherever they go the sweet order of goodness and helpfulness. Whenever they come into a room people love to see them for they always make the room seem brighter and sweeter, like the flowers, and even after they are gone the fragrance seems to remain where they have been.

Did you ever hear some older person say "sub rosa." People say that when they do not want the things that they are saying to be repeated. It means "under the rose." A long, long time ago the Romans used to hang a rose from the ceiling of the room. That meant that when strangers came into that home and saw or heard anything disagreeable there, that they were not to tell anyone. "Sub rosa" means that you must not tell. That is one of messages of the rose that has come down to us from the long ago. I think that it is a pretty good thing to remember now, don't you? If you hear something disagreeable and unkind about some one else, if you see him do things that he ought not to do, don't go away and talk about them. That will never do any good. It will only make matters worse.

Let us try and remember these three lessons of the rose, first, love; second, helpfulness, and third, forgetting the things that we see in others that are evil.

Norfolk, Va.

Pharaoh told his people that they should take all the boy babies and throw them into the river and drown them, and this was done.

Now there was a good Israelite named Amram, and his wife was named Jochebed, and they were of the house of Levi. And God gave them a beautiful little son whom they loved dearly. His mother feared that Pharaoh's servants would come and kill her boy, so she hid him for three months. When she found that she could hide him no longer she took some bulrushes out of the river and wove them into a strong basket shaped like a little ark or boat. Then she daubed this boat over with pitch to keep out the water, and she put her precious little son into this cradle bed built like a boat, and she hid it carefully among the rushes at the edge of the river. Then she called to the little boy's older sister, Miriam, and she said: "Stay near by and see that no harm can befall our baby."

It happened that the king's daughter and her handmaidens came down to the river to bathe, and when the Princess saw this queer, ark-shaped basket floating upon the water she said: "Go out and bring unto me that ark;" and one of her maids brought forth the basket boat. As the Princess looked into it she was very much surprised to see a beautiful baby boy. The baby cried and stretched his tiny

hands toward the Princess, and her heart was filled with pity for the helpless baby boy. "This is one of the Hebrews' children," she said.

Then Miriam came out from where she was hiding among the tall rushes, and, bowing low before the Princess, said: "May I not go and call one of the Hebrew women to nurse this child for thee?" And the Princess answered: "Go at once." And Miriam ran and brought her mother. When she returned Pharaoh's daughter said to the mother: "Take this little boy and nurse him for me and I will give thee thy wages." So the woman took her own little boy home and took care of him, and he was safe from the wrath of the wicked king.

And the baby grew big and strong, and after a while the Princess sent for the child, and his mother brought him to the royal palace, and the Princess said: "I love this boy and he shall be as my own son, and I shall call him 'Moses,' which means 'drawn out,' because I drew him out of the water."

Then Moses was dressed in royal robes, and he was taught by tutors and trained as a son of a Princess; but when he was a young man he found out that he belonged to the Hebrew people, and, although he might have chosen a life of ease and luxury, Moses resolved to go and live with his own poor people and endure with them their hardships.

God put it into his heart to do this, for God had chosen Moses to lead the people of Israel away from Egypt and the wicked king, toward the promised land of Canaan, where they would be free.

So the babe that was drawn forth from the water became the great leader of an oppressed people and was able to draw them forth from bondage, because he resolved to follow the Lord rather than to give himself up to the selfish pleasures in the court of King Pharaoh.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Children's Letters

FIRST LETTER.

Dear Presbyterian;—I am one of your new friends. I am a little girl ten years old. My school is out. My teacher's name was Mr. Jesse Hollingsworth. I like him fine. I am in the fourth grade at school. I have three sisters and three brothers. This is my first letter. I hope you will print it. Your friend,
Claudville, Va. Mary Dunkley.

A BIG DOLL.

Dear Presbyterian,—I am a little girl 10 years old I go to Sunday-School every time I can. My Sunday-School teacher's name is Miss Fannie Williams. I have a little pet goat that will eat out of my hand and jump up on me. Also I have a big doll nearly two feet high. I named her Bertha, she has black hair and brown eyes. I think a lot of her and love to play with her in the carriage. I have four sisters and one brother. My oldest sister is married and has a sweet little boy. He will be two years old in July, his name is Tillman Barber. My papa takes the Presbyterian and I enjoy reading the stories and childrens letters. I hope to see my letter in print as this is my first one
Your unknown friend,

Wagram, N. C.

Mamie Wilkes.

Labor is necessary to excellence. This is an eternal truth, although vanity cannot be taught to believe or indolence to heed it.—John Randolph.

Turn the box upside down and cut a doorway six inches square at the lower edge of one side. A layer of straw should be put on the floor of the house. If cats or rats can get into the room, put a wire cage around their house and yard. This will protect the baby guinea pigs.

You will have no trouble in feeding them, for they eat all kinds of vegetable food. Carrots are very good for them. They like all sorts of grains, green vegetables (like lettuce and celery), and sometimes apples and other fruits. The babies should be given bread and milk until they are three days old. Always keep a dish of water in the cage.—Something to Do.

THE CHOICE OF MOSES.

Long, long ago the people of Israel were held as slaves in the land of Egypt. A very wicked king named Pharaoh ruled over the Egyptians, and when he saw how many Israelites there were he was very much afraid. "Some day they may rise against us and slay us," he said. So he made the poor Israelites work very hard, and he appointed cruel taskmasters to be placed over them.

Then the king made a wicked rule: that all the little boy babies should be killed as soon as they were born, but the little girl babies should live. However, the good women who took care of these babies feared God and they would not.